

BELLSOUTH

1600 Williams Street, Suite 5200
Columbia, South Carolina 29201

August 17, 2006

Ms. Jocelyn Boyd, Deputy Clerk
Public Service Commission of SC
Post Office Drawer 11649
Columbia, South Carolina 29211

Re: Interconnection Agreement Negotiated by BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc. and Birch Telecom of the South, Inc. pursuant to Sections 251 and 252 of the Telecommunications Act of 1996
Docket No. 2000-495-C

Dear Ms. Boyd:

Pursuant to Sections 252(e) of the Telecommunications Act of 1996, BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc. ("BellSouth") and Birch Telecom of the South, Inc. ("Birch") submit to the South Carolina Public Service Commission their interconnection agreement for, among other things, the interconnection of their networks, the unbundling of specific network elements and the resale of BellSouth's telecommunications services. The agreement was negotiated pursuant to Sections 251 and 252 of the Act and also may contain terms and conditions for products and services voluntarily agreed to by the parties outside the scope of Sections 251 and 252 of the Act.

Pursuant to Section 252(e) of the Act, the Commission is charged with approving or rejecting the negotiated agreement between BellSouth and Birch within 90 days of its submission. The Commission may only reject such an agreement if it finds that the agreement or any portion of the agreement discriminates against a telecommunications carrier not a party to the agreement or the implementation of the agreement or any portion of the agreement is not consistent with the public interest, convenience and necessity. Both parties represent that neither of these reasons exists as to the agreement they have negotiated and that the Commission should approve their agreement. This agreement is effective on August 9, 2006 and expires on March 13, 2009.

As a courtesy, a copy of this agreement is being provided to the Office of Regulatory Staff.

Very truly yours,

s/C. Lesley Addis

Enclosures

cc : James E. McDaniel
Rena N. Grant

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